

1995 FATAL VICTIMS UNDER FOUR YEARS OF AGE

From January through December 1995 there was a total of 59 children under four years of age killed in traffic collisions. In 31 of the deaths, no safety seat was used and/or present; 14 were in improperly used safety seats; 4 were in adult safety belts; and only 8 were in safety seats that were correctly used. (In the other 2 fatalities, safety seats were not required or their use was unknown.)

In the collision summaries, this symbol (☆) after the date indicates that the victim was Hispanic or had an Hispanic surname. 58 percent of the fatal victims (34) were in this category.

VICTIMS BY YEAR

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>KILLED</u>	<u>INJURED</u>
1995	59	3,817
1994	56	4,127
1993	48	4,357
1992	59	4,705
1991	70	4,793
1990	64	5,109
1989	43	5,102
1988	60	4,855
1987	66	4,792
1986	50	4,212
1985	53	4,050
1984	57	4,177
1983	60	4,273
1982	46	4,679
1981	58	4,716
1980	47	4,652

27360 CITATIONS (CHP ONLY)

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1995	15,359
1994	16,060
1993	18,797
1992	21,578
1991	24,161
1990	21,476
1989	18,420
1988	15,196
1987	15,473
1986	12,620
1985	14,593
1984	11,879
1983	6,315*

*(1983 CITES STARTED 4/1/83)

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[The following is the format for the information contained in these reports.]

DATE TIME/CITY/COUNTY/. VICTIM. DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT.
RESTRAINT USE

JANUARY

- 04 ☆ 1718/Coachella/Riverside. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) was exiting a parking lot and turning left onto a highway. She allowed her vehicle to enter the roadway without observing oncoming traffic. Oncoming vehicle was unable to stop before striking her vehicle broadside.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 08 1122/Los Angeles/Los Angeles. 2-YR-OLD MALE. Hit and run driver caused a second vehicle to swerve into third vehicle, causing it to overturn. Driver (father) in third vehicle had placed child in safety seat but did not fasten safety belt around the seat. Child and seat were ejected from the vehicle.
IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE
- 21 ☆ 1400/Los Angeles/Los Angeles. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver of mini-van carrying several passengers including young children (all unrestrained), entered an intersection after the light had turned red. Mini-van was struck broadside and spun, ejecting and killing two passengers including the 1-year-old child. Child's unrestrained mother also died in this crash.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 23 1505/Uninc./Plumas. 3-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (mother) allowed wheels of vehicle to slide off roadway causing her to lose control. Vehicle struck a rock wall and then began sliding down a rock embankment and into a river. As the vehicle began sliding toward the river, the driver removed her safety belt and released the child restraint harnesses on both seats located on the rear seat of the vehicle. As water began entering the vehicle the driver was able to remove one child from the vehicle and grasped the second child but the child slid out of his jacket and remained in the vehicle as it submerged. Neither child suffered injuries in the collision but the boy drowned when the vehicle submerged in the river.
SAFETY SEAT/PROPER USE [BUT NOT A FACTOR]
- 14 0625/Unin./San Bernardino. 2-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (father) was operating a large semi-truck trailer when he made an unsafe turning movement, lost control and the vehicle left the roadway and overturned. Vehicle instantly burst into flames and all four occupants were killed including the 2-year-old child. Safety seats are not required to be used in this vehicle.
SAFETY SEAT NOT REQUIRED/NOT APPLICABLE

FEBRUARY

- 20 1739/San Bernardino/Hesperia. 3-YR-OLD FEMALE. Semi-truck trailer driver had stopped on the road shoulder and was backing up. Driver (mother) appeared to be distracted for an unknown reason and did not perceive the truck as a danger until it was too late to avoid hitting the rear of the trailer. Both mother and child suffered fatal injuries and were unrestrained.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 21 ☆ 1950/Los Angeles/Los Angeles. 2-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (Father) was driving home and observed his wife and children walking to the store so he picked them up. While passing through an intersection they were struck by a DUI driver's vehicle. The mother was wearing a safety belt and survived. Child was riding on mother's lap.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 22 0047/Uninc./Los Angeles. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver failed to yield to red light and fled at speeds up to 100 mph. Driver lost control of vehicle which spun and struck a tree with the back of the vehicle. Child was unrestrained in back seat of vehicle.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

MARCH

- 02 ☆ 1130/Uninc./Madera. TWO, 2-YEAR-OLD FEMALES. Because of inattention, driver failed to see and stop at a posted stop sign and continued into an intersection. Vehicle was struck by a second vehicle and spun into a power pole which inflicted fatal injuries to the two children and their mother. Children were in adult safety belts.
ADULT BELTS ONLY/PREVENTABLE
- 17 0820/Uninc./Riverside. 1-YR-OLD MALE. DUI (0.14%) driver (father) allowed his vehicle to drift off the roadway and strike a pole. Twin boys were riding in improperly restrained safety seats and were sitting on the internal harness straps. The collision ejected one child inflicting fatal injuries.
IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE
- 18 ☆ 1250/Uninc./Kern. 3-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (father) stopped at intersection and then proceeded directly into the path of an oncoming vehicle which struck the first vehicle broadside. Impact ejected child who was riding in a improperly attached safety seat. A 2-year-old child in the right front seat was riding in a properly attached safety seat and survived the collision.
IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE

MARCH (Continued)

- 26 1535/Uninc./Merced. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) driving at freeway speeds when she approached a vehicle, saw its brake lights flash and swerved. This action caused her to lose control of her vehicle which left the roadway and overturned. Twins were seated in properly attached safety seats on the rear seat of the vehicle. Child in the right rear suffered fatal head injuries, child in the left rear was not injured. Driver also suffered fatal injuries.
SAFETY SEAT

APRIL

- 01 1955/Uninc./Imperial. 2-YEAR-OLD FEMALE AND 3-YR-OLD MALE. Driver was sleepy and drifted off roadway, realized her mistake and overcorrected. This caused the vehicle to skid sideways and rollover. Girl was on mothers lap, boy was on rear seat beside his safety seat. Both were ejected and suffered fatal injuries. Mother was wearing lap/shoulder belt and suffered minor injuries.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 06 1756/Redding/Shasta. 1-YR-OLD-FEMALE. Driver (father) strapped child into child safety seat but did not use the safety belt to attach the seat to the car. For unknown reasons he then accelerated the vehicle to 75 - 80 mph and steered directly into a tree. Child and safety seat were ejected from the vehicle and child suffered fatal injuries.
IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE
- 08 1337/West Sacramento/Yolo. 2-YR-OLD MALE. Had Been Drinking (HBD) driver allowed her vehicle to cross into oncoming traffic and struck a second vehicle head-on. The child was riding in an improperly attached child safety seat on the rear seat of the second vehicle.
IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE
- 09☆ 2230/Los Angeles/Los Angeles. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Child was a passenger in a vehicle with her mother, father and aunt. Two other vehicles which were engaged in a contest of speed overtook them and collided with them. The impact ruptured the gasoline tank and the vehicle burned, inflicting fatal injuries on all occupants. Due to the severity of the fire, it was impossible to determine if any of the occupants, including the child, were wearing safety restraints.
UNKNOWN
- 17☆ 0208/Uninc./San Bernardino. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (father) was operating his vehicle at a speed which was unsafe for conditions (icy). When he applied his brakes to avoid a vehicle which was skidding in front of him, he skidded and rear-ended the vehicle. Child was sitting on his mother's lap.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

APRIL (Continued)

- 19 1622/Sacramento/Sacramento. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) was stopped at an intersection waiting to make a left turn when her vehicle was struck from behind by a second vehicle. Impact inflicted fatal injuries on the child who was wearing an adult safety belt.
ADULT LAP BELT ONLY/PREVENTABLE
- 24 1555/Palmdale/Los Angeles. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (mother) failed to yield to through traffic at an intersection and her vehicle was struck broadside by a vehicle traveling 55 mph. Child was seated at point of massive impact.
SAFETY SEAT

MAY

- 01 0620/Uninc./Tulare. 2-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (father) was driving at a speed unsafe for conditions (rain) and failed to negotiate a turn. Vehicle left the roadway and overturned, ejecting the unrestrained child.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 03 0420/Uninc./San Joaquin. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (father) for unknown reasons allowed his vehicle to drift across the center line and directly into the path of a large truck. The head-on collision inflicted fatal injuries to all passengers in the first vehicle including the child.
SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT
- 20☆ 2002/Stockton/San Joaquin. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. A DUI driver (.19) drove through a red light and struck second vehicle. Child in second vehicle was riding in an improperly attached safety seat and was ejected from the vehicle.
IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE
- 27☆ 2204/Victorville/San Bernardino. 2-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (grandmother) was tired and had consumed several beers. She entered an intersection without stopping for the stop sign, and her vehicle was struck by cross-traffic. Child was sitting on his father's lap.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

JUNE

- 03 1201/Riverside/Riverside. 3-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver for unknown reasons, allowed her vehicle to drift off the roadway and strike a utility pole. Child was riding in an unrestrained child safety seat.
IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE

JUNE (Continued)

- 04 ☆ 2150/Uninc./Ventura. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) allowed her vehicle to drift onto the shoulder of the highway. She then overcorrected, lost control, and her vehicle struck the center divider. Child was riding in an improperly attached front-facing safety seat.
IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE
- 07 1220/Uninc./Merced. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (father) allowed his vehicle to drift over the center line and into the path of an oncoming vehicle. Child was sitting on her mother's lap. The family was making a short trip to a convenience store and didn't feel the use of a child safety seat was necessary, so they left the seat at home.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 11 ☆ 1900/Corona/Riverside. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (father), operating his vehicle at an unsafe speed, entered a turn and lost control. The vehicle left the roadway, spun and struck a guardrail. The impact ejected the child who was sitting unrestrained in a child safety seat.
IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE
- 15 ☆ 0758/Fresno/Fresno. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) was transporting her four unrestrained children. While negotiating a left turn, one of the children in the rear seat opened the rear door and the child fell out of the vehicle and into the path of an oncoming car.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 18 ☆ 2345/Beaumont/Riverside. 1-YR-OLD MALE, 1-YR-OLD FEMALE, 3-YR-OLD FEMALE. DUI driver (0.18) operating his vehicle at 90 mph, rear-ended a second vehicle which overturned and burst into flame. Second vehicle contained 11 people. Nine were not using safety belts or child safety seats. Nine victims in this vehicle were killed, including the three children.
NO SAFETY SEATS (3)
- 19 ☆ 2246/Uninc./Santa Clara. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver lost control of his car and crossed over center line, striking second vehicle head-on. Child in second vehicle was riding on mother's lap.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 14 1435/Uninc./Riverside. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (father) was entering an intersection when his vehicle was struck by a second vehicle which failed to stop at the stop sign. Impact caused the child, who was strapped into an unrestrained child safety seat, to strike the rear of the right front passenger seat, inflicting fatal injuries.
IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE

JULY

- 20 1125/Uninc./Sonoma. 3-YR-OLD FEMALE. DUI (heroin) driver (father) allowed his vehicle to cross over the center line and strike and oncoming vehicle head-on. There was a child safety seat in the vehicle but it was not used.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 22☆ 1735/Duarte/Los Angeles. 2-YR-OLD MALE. Driver lost control of his vehicle in a turn which caused it to spin. Second vehicle, which was exceeding the speed limit, could not avoid the first vehicle. Impact caused child to be thrown around the interior of second vehicle, inflicting fatal injuries.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 23☆ 1414/Uninc./Riverside. 3-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (grandmother) was passing a second vehicle when she observed oncoming traffic and swerved back into her lane. This action caused the vehicle to go into a spin and overturn, ejecting the unrestrained child.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 25☆ 2350/Victorville/San Bernardino. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (father) was operating a pickup truck at 75 - 80 mph when a tire blew out causing him to lose control. Vehicle left the roadway, struck a raised area and overturned, ejecting the child who was riding in the rear bed of the vehicle.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

AUGUST

- 05☆ 1340/stanton/Orange. 2-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) entered an intersection into the path of a fire truck. Vehicle was struck broadside by the truck. Child was riding in a properly attached safety seat, but was not strapped into the seat.
IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE
- 27☆ 0945/Petaluma/Sonoma. 2-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (father) was in the number two lane of the freeway when his vehicle was struck in the left rear by a second vehicle. This impact caused the vehicle to go out of control, leave the roadway and roll over, ejecting the unrestrained child.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 27 1400/Uninc./San Bernardino. 2-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) attempted to negotiate a curve at too high a speed and lost control of her vehicle. After leaving the roadway, the vehicle struck two trees. The child was seated in a properly attached safety seat, but the straps over the child's shoulders did not have the required harness tie which prevents the straps from separating in an impact. Consequently, the child did not stay in the seat and suffered fatal injuries.
IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE

AUGUST (Continued)

- 29 0805/Uninc./Los Angeles. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (mother) allowed her vehicle's wheels to run onto the gravel shoulder of the roadway. When she over-corrected and lost control of the vehicle, it crossed the center line and struck a second vehicle head-on. The impact sent her vehicle airborne and caused it to roll over. The child was in an unrestrained safety seat and was ejected.
IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE

SEPTEMBER

- 14 2400/Uninc./Madera. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. DUI driver allowed his vehicle to run off a steep mountain road and down a very steep embankment. Child, riding in a safety seat with the shoulder straps cut out, was ejected.
IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE
- 20 2045/Chino Hills/San Bernardino. 2-YR-OLD MALE. An inexperienced, unlicensed driver hit the gas pedal instead of the brake while avoiding another vehicle. This action caused her vehicle to swerve to the right and strike a parked truck. The child was at the point of impact.
SAFETY SEAT
- 20☆ 2225/Uninc./Monterey. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (father) allowed his vehicle to drift across the center line where it was struck head-on by an oncoming vehicle. There were twin girls in the back seat. One was in a properly attached safety seat and survived with minor injuries, the second, riding in a child carrier, received fatal injuries.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE.
- 26☆ 1630/Uninc./Merced. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (father) stopped at a stop sign and then proceeded into the intersection directly into the path of an oncoming vehicle. The second vehicle struck the first vehicle broadside. Child was at point of impact.
SAFETY SEAT
- 29 2110/Lakewood/Los Angeles. 2-YR-OLD MALE. Speeding driver (80-100 mph) entered an intersection against the red light and struck the second vehicle broadside. Child was at the point of massive impact.
SAFETY SEAT

OCTOBER

- 05☆ 2040/Paramount/Los Angeles. 2-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver made a left turn across traffic. Oncoming vehicle was speeding (60 mph in a 30 mph zone) and struck the first vehicle broadside. All four occupants of the first vehicle were killed including the child. A safety seat was present but not used.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

OCTOBER (Continued)

- 07☆ 2020/Uninc./Riverside. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Driver allowed his vehicle to cross the center line and strike an oncoming vehicle head-on. The child, an unrestrained passenger in the second vehicle, suffered fatal injuries.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 10☆ 1710/Uninc./Tulare. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Mother was assisting her sister and a friend in pushing their non-operating vehicle. The mother had put the child on the front driver's seat. When the vehicle hit a slight bump, the child fell out of the vehicle, bounced off the mother's leg and fell into the path of the left rear wheel.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

NOVEMBER

- 29☆ 0835/Uninc./Tulare. 3-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (father) failed to yield at an intersection to the vehicle on his right. The first vehicle was struck broadside by the second vehicle. Unrestrained child was ejected.
NO SAFETY SEAT
- 29☆ 1140/Uninc./Ventura. 3-YR-OLD FEMALE. Speeding driver attempted to pass a second speeding vehicle on the left shoulder of the highway. This was taking place as they overtook a third vehicle. Driver on the shoulder lost control of his vehicle, which struck the second vehicle. This impact sent the second vehicle into the third vehicle. The third vehicle spun and rolled over, ejecting the unrestrained child.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

DECEMBER

- 02☆ 0945/Uninc./Stanislaus. 3-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) allowed her vehicle to drift onto the shoulder of the roadway. She then overcorrected and lost control of the vehicle, which left the roadway and overturned. The child was riding in an adult lap belt and was ejected.
LAP BELT ONLY/PREVENTABLE
- 11☆ 1915/Uninc./Alameda. 3-YR-OLD MALE. Vehicle ran out of gas and came to a stop in a freeway lane. A second driver did not realize the first vehicle had stopped and ran into the rear of the stopped vehicle. Child was sitting on his mother's lap in the stopped vehicle and the impact threw him into and partially through the windshield.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 13☆ 1000/Uninc./Ventura. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) lost control of her vehicle because of speed, bald tires, and wet roadway. Her vehicle slid across the center line and was struck by an oncoming vehicle. Child was not restrained.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

DECEMBER (Continued)

19☆ 0645/Uninc./Los Angeles. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (mother) looked over her shoulder at her children who were sleeping on the floor in the extended cab section of a pickup truck. When she looked back at the road she realized she had drifted to the left and overcorrected. This caused her vehicle to skid across several lanes and overturn, ejecting one of the children. Safety seats were present but not used.

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

23☆ 1645/Uninc./Riverside. 1-YR-OLD MALE. DUI driver (father) allowed his vehicle to drift over the center line and strike a second vehicle head-on. Child was unrestrained.

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

26 1205/Inglewood/Los Angeles. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (mother), for unknown reasons, lost control of her vehicle and began to swerve off the road. This caused the vehicle to spin into a utility pole. Child was at point of massive impact.

SAFETY SEAT